



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY SCIENCE  
CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
400 EAST 8<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE  
ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON 98926-7569



ATOW-MWA-CW

9 October 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Cadet Participation in Robin Sage

1. Purpose: To provide lessons learned in effort to improve planning of Cadet participation in Field Training Exercise Robin Sage.
2. Summary of events. After arriving at Camp McCall, North Carolina, other cadets and I were transported to our guerrilla base camps where we established ourselves and awaited the arrival of the Special Forces (SF) trainees. Upon the SF trainees arrival, the cadets acting as guerrilla fighters proceeded to test the trainees inter-personal skills, their technical knowledge and their leadership abilities under the direction of a SF Master Sergeant who acted as our guerrilla chief. After the trainees built rapport with the guerrilla chief, the trainees were allowed into the camp and began training us in FM 7-8 tactics. They led us on missions and trained us how to perform our own missions. Personally, I learned an incredible wealth of field craft, I experienced small unit tactics as both a leader and follower and received a better understanding of Army operations in a supportive and fun environment. After 15 days we were transported back to Camp McCall and were bussed to the airport.
3. The following After Action Review comments were compiled by Cadet Marcus Phares who participated in Robin Sage from 30 July to 16 August.
  - a. Issue: Billeting on post and JFK Special Warfare School support.  
Recommendation: Repeat the same procedures that were used this summer. Every cadet had a bed, knew where he or she had to be and when, and was very well fed.
  - b. Issue: Living conditions in the field.  
Recommendation: During the time out in the field, we were well supplied with food and water. We were comfortable with our living situation and maintained high moral. We did a good job of replicating the living conditions of a band of guerrillas. This was a great opportunity for cadets to learn basic field craft. The experience motivates me for my MS III year.



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Sage.

Recommendation:

Continue the relationship with the JFK Special Warfare Center and Robin Sage. Cadets gain experience in field craft living, gain personal confidence, gain technical knowledge, and refine leadership skills. Ultimately, Robin Sage is a win-win situation for cadets and SF trainees.

4. In summary, I believe I gained a greater appreciation of Army operations, improved my field craft skills, gained greater expertise in FM 7-8 tactical planning and patrolling while supporting the training of Special Forces candidates.

5. The point of contact for this AAR is Cadet Marcus Phares or Major Christopher Schmitt at (509) 963-3518.

/s/

MARCUS R. PHARES  
MS III Cadet  
Central Washington University

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SUBJECT: Cadet Participation in Robin Sage

1. Purpose: To provide lessons learned in effort to improve planning of Cadet participation in Field Training Exercise Robin Sage.

2. Summary of events: Upon arrival at Raleigh-Durham airport, cadets were taken to Camp Mackall for inprocessing. Cadets were fed, bedding arrangements were assigned and necessary gear was issued. The following day (1 August 2003) cadets were introduced to their respective "G Chief" (a Special Forces Master Sergeant acting as the guerrilla leader) as well as enlisted soldiers from various units stationed at Fort Bragg tasked to support Robin Sage. This new group was given a short socio-political lesson of the conditions in Pineland (the three county area that our guerrilla insurgency would be operating) as well as history lesson of our particular guerrilla band. The remaining 15 days included various missions to include reconnaissance, message drops, drive-by assaults, ambushes, and basic infantry tactics. The Special Forces trainees also taught proper Operations Order planning from FM 7-8 to the guerillas (cadets) in charge of missions.

3. The following After Action Review comments were compiled by Cadet Glenn West who participated in Robin Sage from 31 July 2003 to 16 August 2003.

a. Issue: There were many cadets who were forced by their ROTC programs to come to Robin Sage. As a result, cadets who didn't want to be at Robin Sage caused friction among all the cadets participating.

Recommendation: Do not send cadets who are unmotivated and unwilling to spend two weeks in a field environment. These cadets reflect poorly on Cadet Command.

c. Issue: Cadet participation in Robin Sage.

Recommendation: From beginning to end, I was impressed with the professionalism of our SF Cadre Instructor and the SF candidates. More specifically, I was impressed by their timeliness, their ability to motivate us to move from point A to point B and their ability to answer our questions. During the actual exercise, I found it was important to step outside of my own comfort zone to adapt, get along with a diverse group of people, and deal with all kinds of situations. Life in cadet-land is so stable and tidy: out in the woods it was different. If a G (guerrilla) doesn't have the OPORDER done on time or correctly, it reflected poorly on the SF candidates. I think that Robin Sage is very beneficial to the cadet as well as the SF candidate. The cadet learns invaluable field craft

(simple things like making a trench around your hooch so you don't get flooded out) and more about the Army which will help in Branch selection. In return, the SF candidates have motivated indigenous soldiers (cadets) to practice their inter-personal skills and small unit tactics without being required to micromanage someone who is forced to be a training aid. During the exercise, I also learned that if you want to get along with people in the Army, you need to check your ego at the door and be ready to take a couple jokes. Most importantly, I learned a lot about myself – especially how the only limits I struggle with are ones I place upon myself.

4. In summary, I believe Robin Sage was an invaluable experience that will shape my MS III year.
5. The point of contact for this memorandum is Cadet Glenn West or Major Christopher Schmitt at (509) 963-3518

/s/

Glenn West  
MSIII Cadet  
Central Washington University